

this all behind us, of joining together as the family we are, stop the family squabbles, unite, and then start focusing later on the 2008 November election.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL.) The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I wish to inform all Senators that the Committee on Rules and Administration has updated the U.S. Senate Travel Regulations. The Ethics Committee recently issued guidance to the Rules Committee that making more than one reservation for official travel with a participating airline would not constitute a gift under Senate rule XXXV, the Gift Rule. Consistent with the Ethics Committee's guidance, the transportation expenses section of the U.S. Senate Travel Regulations has been updated to address the issue of making more than one reservation on scheduled flights.

The following statement has been added to I.B of the transportation expenses section, found on page IV-64 of the U.S. Senate Handbook:

3. A Member shall be permitted to make more than one reservation on scheduled flights with participating airlines when such action assists the Member in conducting his/her official business.

This change is effective immediately.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the updated U.S. Senate Travel Regulations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION TO ISSUE SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

The travel regulations herein have been promulgated by the Committee on Rules and Administration pursuant to the authority vested in it by paragraph 1(n)(1)8 of Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and by section 68 of Title 2 of the United States Code, the pertinent portions of which provisions are as follows:

STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE Rule XXV

Paragraph 1(n)(1)8

(n)(1) Committee on Rules and Administration, to which committee shall be referred

... matters relating to the following subjects: . . .

8. Payment of money out of the contingent fund of the Senate or creating a charge upon the same . . .

UNITED STATES CODE Title 2 section 68

Sec. 68. Payments from contingent fund of Senate

No payment shall be made from the contingent fund of the Senate unless sanctioned by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate . . .

UNITED STATES SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

Revised by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

United States Senate, effective October 1, 1991 as amended January 1, 1999, as further amended December 7, 2006, as further amended October 26, 2007.

General regulations

I. Travel Authorization

A. Only those individuals having an official connection with the function involved may obligate the funds of said function.

B. Funds disbursed by the Secretary of Senate may be obligated by:

1. Members of standing, select, special, joint, policy or conference committees.
2. Staff of such committees.
3. Employees properly detailed to such committees from other agencies.

4. Employees of Members of such committees whose salaries are disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate and employees appointed under authority of section 111 of Public Law 95-94, approved August 5, 1977, when designated as "ex officio employees" by the Chairman of such committee. Approval of the reimbursement voucher will be considered sufficient designation.

5. Senators, including staff and nominating board members. (Also individuals properly detailed to a Senator's office under authority of Section 503(b)(3) of P.L. 96-465, approved October 17, 1980.)

6. All other administrative offices, including Officers and staff.

C. An employee who transfers from one office to another on the same day he/she concludes official travel shall be considered an employee of the former office until the conclusion of that official travel.

D. All travel shall be either authorized or approved by the chairman of the committee, Senator, or Officer of the Senate to whom such authority has been properly delegated. The administrative approval of the voucher will constitute the approvals required. It is expected that ordinarily the authority will be issued prior to the expenses being incurred and will specify the travel to be performed as such possible unless circumstances in a particular case prevent such action.

E. Official Travel Authorizations: The General Services Administration, on behalf of the Committee on Rules and Administration, has contracted with several air carriers to provide discount air fares for Members, Officers, and employees of the Senate only when traveling on official business. This status is identifiable to the contracting air carriers by one of the following ways:

1. The use of a government issued travel charge card.

2. The use of an "Official Travel Authorization" form which must be submitted to the air carrier prior to purchasing a ticket. These forms must be personally approved by the Senator, chairman, or Officer of the Senate under whose authority the travel for official business is taking place. Payment must be made in advance by cash, credit card, check, or money order. The Official Travel Authorization forms are available in the Senate Disbursing Office.

II. Funds for Traveling Expenses

A. Individuals traveling on official business for the Senate will provide themselves with sufficient funds for all current expenses, and are expected to exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise if traveling on personal business.

1. Travel Advances

(a) Advances to Committees (P.L. 81-118)

(1) Chairmen of joint committees operating from the contingent fund of the Senate, and chairmen of standing, special, select, policy, or conference committees of the Senate, may requisition an advance of the funds authorized for their respective committees.

(a) When any duty is imposed upon a committee involving expenses that are ordered to be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate, upon vouchers to be approved by the chairman of the committee charged with such duty, the receipt of such chairman for any sum advanced to him[her] or his[her] order out of said contingent fund by the Secretary of the Senate for committee expenses not involving personal services shall be taken and passed by the accounting officers of the Government as a full and sufficient voucher; but it shall be the duty of such chairman, as soon as practicable, to furnish to the Secretary of the Senate vouchers in detail for the expenses so incurred.

(2) Upon presentation of the properly signed statutory advance voucher, the Disbursing Office will make the original advance to the chairman or his/her representative. This advance may be in the form of a check, or in cash, receipted for on the voucher by the person receiving the advance. Under no circumstances are advances to be used for the payment of salaries or obligations, other than petty cash transactions of the committee.

(3) In no case shall a cash advance be paid more than seven (7) calendar days prior to the commencement of official travel. In no case shall an advance in the form of a check be paid more than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the commencement of official travel. Requests for advances in the form of a check should be received by the Senate Disbursing Office no less than five (5) calendar days prior to the commencement of official travel. The amount of the advance then becomes the responsibility of the individual receiving the advance, in that he/she must return the amount advanced before or shortly after the expiration of the authority under which these funds were obtained.

(Regulations Governing Cash Advances for Official Senate Travel adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, effective July 23, 1987, pursuant to S. Res. 258, October 1, 1987, as applicable to Senate committees)

(4) Travel advances shall be made prior to the commencement of official travel in the form of cash, direct deposit, or check. Travel advance requests shall be signed by the Committee Chairman and a staff person designated with signature authority.

(5) Cash: Advances for travel in the form of cash shall be picked up only in the Senate Disbursing Office and will be issued only to the person traveling (photo ID required), with exceptions being made for Members and elected Officers of the Senate. The traveler (or the individual receiving the advance in the case of a travel advance for a Member or elected Officer of the Senate) shall sign the travel advance form to acknowledge receipt of the cash.

(6) In those cases when a travel advance has been paid, every effort should be made by the office in question to submit to the Senate Disbursing Office a corresponding travel voucher within twenty-one (21) days of the conclusion of such official travel.